

Application No. 09/830,708  
Filed: April 30, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 1651

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process ~~of~~ for analyzing a specimen of biological material in a biochemical or immunological ~~assay~~ test for an analyte, ~~said process~~ comprising the steps of:

~~providing a specimen of biological material to be analyzed;~~

~~depositing said specimen on a substrate;~~

subjecting said specimen ~~on said substrate~~ to a treatment that develops a color ~~correlated~~ correlating to the amount of ~~an~~ analyte in the specimen;

spectrophotometrically ~~measuring at least one defined characteristic of said color, said characteristic being selected from the group consisting of hue angle, or chroma, saturation and lightness of the developed color; and~~

analyzing the measurement of the hue angle or chroma ~~said at least one color characteristic~~ to determine the presence or concentration of said analyte in said specimen.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of to claim 1, wherein said specimen of biological material comprises liquid or semi-solid body secretions collected from a patient to be diagnosed for evidence of abnormalities;

said analyte to be assayed consists essentially of cancer indicating markers in said specimen; and

the measurement of said ~~at least one color characteristic~~ hue angle or chroma is used to classify the specimen as normal or abnormal according to the ~~value~~ measurement of the hue angle or chroma ~~color characteristic~~ so obtained.

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3. (Previously Amended)The process of claim 2, wherein the specimen is lung mucus, throat mucus, cervical mucus, colorectal mucus or seminal fluid.

4. (Previously Amended)The process of claim 2, wherein said specimen is deposited on a ~~generally white~~ substrate, and wherein said process further comprises developing color from said sample by enzyme reaction or Schiff's reaction.

5. (Currently Amended)The process of claim 1, wherein said specimen of biological material comprises a colon-contacting semi-solid sample collected from a patient to be diagnosed for evidence of abnormalities;

said analyte to be assayed consists essentially of carbohydrate markers indicative of abnormalities;

said step of subjecting said specimen to a treatment comprises depositing the specimen on a ~~generally white~~ substrate, staining the specimen on the substrate with galactose oxidase and color developing the stained specimen with Schiff's reagent; and

the measurement of said hue angle or chroma ~~at least one color characteristic~~ is used to classify the specimen as normal or abnormal according to the value measurement of the hue angle or chroma ~~color characteristic~~ so obtained.

6. (Currently Amended)The process of claim 1, wherein said specimen of biological material comprises a colon-contacting semi-solid sample collected from a patient to be diagnosed for evidence of abnormalities;

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said analyte to be assayed consists essentially of markers indicative of the presence of abnormalities;

said step of subjecting said specimen to a treatment comprises depositing the specimen on a ~~generally white~~ substrate and developing color from the specimen by enzyme reaction; and

the measurement of said hue angle or chroma ~~at least one color characteristic~~ is used to classify the specimen as normal or abnormal according to the value measurement of the hue angle or chroma ~~color characteristic~~ so obtained.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~14~~, wherein said substrate is non-cellulosic.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~14~~, wherein said substrate is glass fibre.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~14~~, wherein said substrate is ~~substantially pure~~ white.

11. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 5, wherein said specimen is ~~predominantly~~ a rectal mucus sample.

12. (Previously Amended) A system for analysis of liquid or semi-solid body secretion ~~samples~~ sample obtained from a human patient to diagnose for the presence or absence of abnormalities in said patient by determination of a defined color characteristic developed in the sample, said color characteristic

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being selected from the group consisting of hue angle, chroma, saturation and lightness, said system comprising:

a white, non-cellulosic substrate with porous pebbled surface, for receiving and holding the sample during development;

a source of galactose oxidase, adapted to apply galactose oxidase to the substrate surface for selective enzymatic oxidation of the sample thereon;

a source of Schiff's reagent, adapted to apply said reagent to said oxidized sample on said substrate for development of an analyzable color therein; and

means for presenting the color-developed sample to a portable reflectance spectrophotometer, said spectrophotometer being capable of determining and reporting a defined color characteristic of said samples on said substrate, said color characteristic being selected from the group consisting of hue angle, chroma, saturation and lightness;

a calibration plaque for use with said spectrophotometer; and  
a computer programmed to analyze the results.

13. (Previously Amended) A kit for analysis of a colon-contacting semi-solid sample obtained from a human patient to diagnose for the presence or absence of rectal abnormalities in the patient, said kit comprising;

a ~~generally~~ white, non-cellulosic substrate for receiving said sample;

a source of Schiff's reagent; and

a portable reflectance spectrophotometer said spectrophotometer being capable of determining and reporting at least one defined color characteristic of said sample on said

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substrate, said color characteristic selected from the group consisting of hue angle, chroma, saturation and lightness.

14. (Previously Amended) The kit of claim 13, wherein the substrate is glass fibre.